

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 5-15, with the following paragraph:

Computer systems generally include a central processing unit, a memory system, and a data storage system. An enterprise data storage system (EDSS), such as the ~~Symmetrix~~ SYMMETRIX Enterprise Storage Platform (ESP) by EMC Corp., is a versatile data storage system having the connectivity and functionality to simultaneously provide storage services to different types of host computers (e.g., mainframes and open system hosts). A large number of main, physical storage devices (e.g., an array of disk devices) may be used by an EDSS to provide data storage for several hosts. The EDSS storage system is typically connected to the associated host computers via dedicated cabling or a network. Such a model allows for the sharing of centralized data among many users and also allows a single point of maintenance for the storage functions associated with the many computer systems.

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 16-20, with the following paragraph:

Disk drive systems continue to grow in size and sophistication. These systems can typically include many large disk drive units controlled by a complex, multi-tasking, disk drive controller such as the EMC ~~Symmetrix~~ SYMMETRIX disk drive controller by EMC Corp. A large scale disk drive system can typically receive commands from a number of host computers and can control a number of disk drive mass storage devices.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 1, line 21 and ending on page 2, line 5, with the following paragraph:

As these systems increase in complexity, so does the user's reliance upon the systems, for fast and reliable access, recovery, and storage of data. Accordingly, the user typically uses data throughput and speed of response as primary criteria for evaluating performance of the disk drive systems. As a result, mass storage devices and the controllers that drive them have become quite sophisticated in efforts to improve command response time. Systems such as the EMC ~~Symmetrix~~ SYMMETRIX disk drive controller system thus incorporate a large cache memory, and other techniques to improve the system throughput.

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 15-19, with the following paragraph:

Many disk drive systems, such as the EMS ~~Symmetrix~~ SYMMETRIX disk drive system, rely upon standardized buses to connect the host computer to the controller, and to connect the controller and the disk drive elements. Thus, should the disk drive controller connected to the bus fail, the entire system, as seen by the host computer, may fail and the result is as noted above, unacceptable to the user.

Please replace the paragraph on page 17, lines 4-14, with the following paragraph:

The technique (i.e., one or more of the procedures described above) may be implemented in hardware or software, or a combination of both. In at least some cases, it is advantageous if the technique is implemented in computer programs executing on one or more programmable computers, such as a computer running or able to run ~~Microsoft Windows~~ MICROSOFT WINDOWS 95, 98, 2000, Millennium Edition MILLENNIUM EDITION, NT; ~~Unix~~ UNIX; LINUX; OR MACOS operating systems Linux; or MacOS; that each include a processor such as an ~~Intel Pentium~~ INTEL PENTIUM 4 processor, a storage medium readable by the processor (including volatile and non-volatile memory and/or storage elements), at least one input device such as a

keyboard, and at least one output device. Program code is applied to data entered using the input device to perform the method described above and to generate output information. The output information is applied to one or more output devices such as a display screen of the computer.

Please replace the paragraph on page 17, lines 15-19, with the following paragraph:

In at least some cases, it is advantageous if such program is implemented in a high level procedural or object-oriented programming language such as C++, ~~Java~~ JAVA, or ~~Perl~~ PERL languages to communicate with a computer system. However, the programs can be implemented in assembly or machine language, if desired. In any case, the language may be a compiled or interpreted language.